

PENDING CLAIMS

By this reply, claims 1-25 are submitted for examination. Of these, claims 1, 14, 24, and 25 are independent.

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider this request for continuing examination (RCE) prior to examination of the application. No new matter has been added. Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Ida Soward for the telephone interview on February 27, 2003. The claims have been amended to clarify the invention. Specifically, claims 1, 14, 24, and 25 have been amended to recites "a n+ region formed above a substrate such that said p region is formed within said n+ region." Applicant thanks Examiner Soward for her indication that the claims, as amended, would be allowable over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

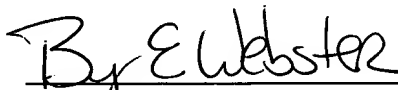
If the undersigned attorney can assist in any matters regarding examination of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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